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***Kernan's choice for lieutenant governor:
Katherine "Kathy" Davis***

Gov. Joe Kernan today made public his choice to succeed him in the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, Katherine "Kathy" Davis, controller for the city of Indianapolis.

If confirmed by the Indiana General Assembly during an Oct. 20 special session, Davis would be the first woman to serve in the role of lieutenant governor.

The proposed 49th lieutenant governor of the state of Indiana has held a number of critical positions in Indiana government. Immediately before she became city controller, she managed the start-up of the Indiana 21st Century Research and Technology Fund – the O'Bannon-Kernan initiative to develop and commercialize advanced technologies in Indiana.



"Kathy is as good as they come," said Kernan. "In the short time that we worked together on the 21st Century Fund, her work was extraordinary. She is eminently qualified to make this next step to the executive branch, and ready to step in immediately."

Davis has also served as secretary of the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration and director of the Indiana State Budget Agency.

According to the state's constitution, the lieutenant governor is the presiding officer of the Indiana State Senate. By statute, that person also serves as director of the Indiana Department of Commerce, commissioner of Agriculture and chair of the Indiana Counter-Terrorism and Security Council.

"During these difficult economic times for states across the country, we need someone who already has a good grasp of the situation," said Kernan. "Kathy brings intimate knowledge of the workings of both state and local government, as well as the business community, and that will pay off as we continue to grow Hoosier jobs today and lay the groundwork for a successful future."

A graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Harvard Business School, Davis has also worked as a deputy commissioner of the Indiana Department of Transportation and director at Cummins Engine Company.

"I am tremendously honored to be asked to serve with Gov. Kernan," said Davis. "He has set a high standard for the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, and to be considered as the person to fill his shoes, is humbling.

"I will work hard every day to live up to the confidence he has placed in me, as well as earn the trust of the people of the state of Indiana," added Davis.

"Kathy Davis is very competent, she's a true professional and not a political choice," said Sen. Evan Bayh, D-Ind. "Kathy is committed to fiscal responsibility, economic growth and good government. I know she will do an outstanding job for the people of Indiana."

"Kathy is an inspiring choice for lieutenant governor," said Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson. "Her resume and list of accomplishments is remarkable, but they don't fully explain the kind of person she is.

"She is smart and creative – guiding our city through difficult financial challenges. Her integrity is beyond question – Republicans and Democrats are united in trusting her analyses and her word. And she is as decent a human being as I know – treating everyone with respect and dignity.

"She's a friend, and I'll miss her here, but I am beyond happy today for her and our state," concluded Peterson.

Kathy Davis is married to John Davis, and is mother to 8-year-old Mollie and stepmother to 20-year-old Marshall.

Gov. Kernan served as lieutenant governor until Sept. 13, when he was sworn in as governor following the death of Gov. Frank O'Bannon.

"In selecting Kathy, I picked someone based on the same kind of connection I shared with Gov. O'Bannon – a relationship built on respect, trust and friendship," said Kernan.

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